OCT 1 0 2006 ED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re U.S. Patent Application of Art Unit 2100 YASUDA et al. **Special Program** Application Number: 10/767,778 **Examiner** Filed: January 30, 2004 Brian L. Johnson For: FILE REPLICATION METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTED FILE SYSTEMS **ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0180 Commissioner of Patents** P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend this application as outlined hereinbelow: